



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE SIGNS IN JAPAN AND CHINA

Allowing for the misunderstandings and miscalculations that may occur in trying to measure in the United States events in the Far East, especially when the news dispatches are rather fragmentary, the late happenings in Japan and China are encouraging to most observers.

These events have revolved largely around Admiral Baron Tomosaburo Kato in Japan, and General Wu Pei-Fu in China. Each appears to be emerging as the strong man of the hour in his country, and each is hailed by many observers in this country as a strong man of fine promise—Kato to guide Japan along lines of economic rather than militaristic endeavor, and Wu to lead China to unification and order.

KATO AT THE ARMS CONFERENCE

Baron Kato made a profound impression at the Washington Conference, where he soon was accepted as the big man of the Japanese delegation, and, at the end of the sessions, as one of the "Big Three" of the conference, Secretary Hughes and Mr. Balfour (now the Earl of Balfour) being the other two. At first, the run of opinion in conference circles was that Kato was the storied Japanese—crafty, inscrutable, and long-headed. Toward the latter part of the conference many of the abler members who came into close contact with him said, and seemingly were wholly sincere, that he had labored earnestly and industriously for the thoroughgoing success of the great undertaking.

The first definite news that he was marching to the very front in Japan came in dispatches from Tokyo early in June, stating that he was the probable choice for premier, to succeed Premier Takahashi. In succeeding dispatches it was stated that he was desired in the office, and that he was impelled to accept it because he was deeply interested in the unequivocal acceptance by Japan of the Washington Conference treaties, and there was danger to the treaties unless he became premier—a report that, incidentally, official Washington generally declined to take at face value, in so far as it implied danger to the treaties. On June 11 Tokyo dispatches announced that the Baron had accepted the high office, going into power with a non-party, or coalition, cabinet obligated to acceptance of the treaties. One other absolute condition, it was said, had been made by Baron Kato. He had insisted that the army leaders agree to reduce the army budget by approximately \$20,000,000.

THE FLURRY IN JAPAN

There was a marked flurry in Japanese politics and journalism following Kato's accession to power, with charges that the new ministry was colored with reactionism, that constitutional principles were violated, and that normal and healthy party affiliations and divisions were destroyed by the coalition basis of the new ministry. In the United States, however, the disposition was to overlook these outcroppings of Japanese internal politics and to find cause for sincere gratification at the interest of the new government of Japan in the Washington Conference treaties, dealing so importantly with naval affairs, and at the evident purpose of Baron Kato, at least partially to parallel the naval curtailments with curtailments of the army. In the latter regard the reports in June of reduction of the army budget were followed in early July by reports of reduction in the size of the army.

KATO, THE MAN

All of this, perhaps, lends interest to a sprightly pen portrait of Baron Kato that appeared in the *New York Times* of June 18, written by Silas Bent, part of which follows:

Whatever Kato does will be done with impassive composure. He will have thought it out beforehand. This habit of his, it may be said, detracts somewhat from his merit as a family man; for he goes off by himself to think things out, and often prefers to spend hours in solitude in his own home. His wife objects to the habit. She has tried to break him of it. (Those who think Japanese wives don't speak their minds on such matters may well make note of this.) Presumably she is still trying to break her husband of his vice of solitary thinking, but at 63 he is probably somewhat set in his ways. He is as likely as not to think out Japanese policy all by his lonesome, without asking the advice of the Genro or the army and navy chieftains. It is possible; and if he does it, if he ignores the elder statesmen and the militarists, it will be a political innovation as startling in Japan as was his battle strategy to the naval experts of the Occident.

Admiral Baron Tomosaburo Kato (for he was made a vice admiral just after the Russo-Japanese War, and was created a baron in 1920) brought his immobility along with him to the Washington Conference, which he attended as a joint delegate with Prince Iyesato Tokugawa and Baron Kijuro Shidehara, the latter ambassador at the capital. After ill health compelled the Prince to return to Japan, Kato became the acknowledged head of the delegation, and it was part of his duty, or at least a task which he accepted without apparent protest, to be interviewed daily by a swarm of newspaper men and a few newspaper women.

Baron Kato understands English fairly well and speaks it imperfectly. The audiences were conducted invariably with the assistance of an interpreter, but there were times when the Admiral, realizing the import of a question, did not await the assistance of his interpreter in declining to answer it.

The correspondents at the conference came to like Baron Kato for all that. They jested to one another about his "poker face" not unenviously. They vied with one another in putting to him questions deliberately calculated to ruffle the immemorial serenity of that mask. Perhaps the Baron understood that it was a game. Sometimes he seemed to enjoy it. Not once did he lose his temper. Not once did he make an indiscreet reply. Not once did he refuse to answer with surprising candor when an answer was possible. And not once did the correspondents succeed in piercing his imperturbable calm.

GENERAL WU IN CHINA

It will be recalled that months ago, when thought began to concentrate more and more on Chinese problems as interwoven with world problems, General Wu Pei-Fu, operating south of Peking, was stated to be one of the two strong military leaders in China and was often described as an enlightened and patriotic man. General Chang Tso Lin, the other powerful chieftain, ruling in Manchuria, was described almost invariably as an ex-bandit and rogue and was suspected of being in the pay of Japan.

Recent issues of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* have summarized General Wu's expected collision with General Chang and his somewhat unexpected and sweeping victories. After having defeated Chang decisively, Wu acquired a potent influence in the governmental situation in Peking. Later he turned his attention to Dr. Sun Yat Sen, president of the South China Government, with headquarters in Canton, who had amazed many in this country, who sympathized with his liberal doctrines, by entering into some sort of an alliance with General Chang when the latter was facing

General Wu. The time came when Dr. Sun Yat Sen was driven out of Canton and forced to take refuge on his gunboats. That was because General Chen Chiung-Ming, commander of the South China military forces, turned on Sun Yat Sen when the latter's differences with Wu were approaching a crisis. Disinterested and informed observers in this country of Chinese affairs say that General Chen's attack on Sun Yat Sen was not due to treachery, but to patriotic devotion to China. He had become convinced, these observers think, that Sun Yat Sen had erred in allying himself with Chang and in opposition to Wu. Moreover, these observers say that, as the code operates in China, Chen was free to do as he pleased. He had given Sun Yat Sen as much as he had gained and was under no obligation to do other than follow his judgment and conscience.

THE OUTCOME

In any event, as this is written it appears that the results of General Wu's operations of the last few months are these: He has humbled and driven into retirement the aggressive and unscrupulous war lord of the North, General Chang; he has forced into seclusion the leader of the South China Republic, Dr. Sun Yat Sen; he has acquired vast power in Peking, seat of the recognized Chinese Government, and, through his apparent working agreement with General Chen, he has substantially as much power in Canton, seat of the Southern rebel government. In sum, he seems from this side of the Pacific Ocean to be the most potent, if not the actually dominant, figure throughout China.

And that is a fact greeted with rejoicing in many circles. The rejoicing may be turned to disappointment and sorrow, as happens so often in Chinese affairs. But there is widespread hope and good cheer at this time.

CHINA'S NEEDS

The theory prevalent in many circles of American opinion concerned with China is that a unified and stable government must be set up, and that the powers of the military chieftains and of the aggressive provincial governors, so often suspected of being in the pay of or controlled by unscrupulous foreign interests, must be eliminated or rendered negligible. If this can be accomplished there will be greater opportunity than in many years past for the enlightened opinion of China to effectuate itself along the paths which will lead to restoration of China's position as a self-sustaining, sovereign nation. There is little doubt that the dominant opinion in some of the nations of the Western world and a growing opinion in others of these nations is anxious to lend its support to China for the attainment of this end.

And of course the almost universal opinion of statesmen is that China must help herself in this way before the most beneficent designs of her friends and other nations can bear full fruition. At the Washington Conference the insidious argument used by those who were not in full sympathy with plans to restore China to her full rights was that China was incapable of enjoying them, in safety to her own many millions and in safety to legitimate interests of the other peoples of the world. That note in the Conference accounts for the guardedness of some of the provisions made for the relief of China. It served to deter, in some measure, even the most ardent of China's friends at the Conference.

INSIDE GERMANY

The murder of Dr. Walter Rathenau, the German Foreign Minister, on June 24, and the attack on Maximilian Harden a few days later, directed attention again to the internal social and political conditions of Germany. For so many months has the world been thinking of Germany as an important and somewhat mysterious international factor that very little thought had been given to what was going on inside.

The cold-blooded assassination of Dr. Rathenau, generally accounted the ablest man in Chancellor Wirth's Cabinet, immediately set the world thinking about Royalist plots. Reports appeared in the press of Germany of schemes said to have been under way for numerous terroristic acts to be performed on the day Rathenau died. Evidently, supporters of the Republican government of Germany took all such reports most seriously; for the government prepared for grave eventualities, and the masses of the workers supporting the government rallied in enormous meetings intended to impress and intimidate plotters, as well as to voice their grief and indignation at Rathenau's death.

UNNOTICED NEWS

Two articles dealing with Germany appeared in the American press some days before the Rathenau assassination, which seem to possess a new significance now. So far removed were they from the usual German news dealing with reparations, international loans, relations with Russia, and so on, that slight attention was given them when they were printed; but it is possible they told of things that go far toward explaining such dangers to Republican Germany as appeared in the murder of Dr. Rathenau.

One of these articles was in the *New York Times* of June 18, six days before Rathenau was shot. In part, the article follows:

REACTIONARIES' EFFORTS

German reactionaries are making a serious effort to utilize the movies for the purpose of carrying on their monarchist propaganda, according to the charges made in the Socialist and Democratic German papers in connection with the rows over the spectacular historical film, "Fredericus Rex," a picture glorifying Prussian militarism as exemplified in the life of Frederick the Great. As told by cable, the picture has drawn big crowds and resulted in violent clashes between young Junkers and Communist and Socialist youths.

Charges by *Die Freiheit*, the Independent Socialist organ, that regular army troops were allowed to collaborate with ex-members of the notorious Rossbach Volunteers, a band of ex-soldiers that helped ravage the Baltic States and stir up trouble in Upper Silesia and in the Ruhr following the armistice, have not been denied by the Ministry of Defense. In its issue of May 29, *Die Freiheit* says that the success of "Fredericus Rex" appears to have inspired the Junkers with high hopes, and it notes the advance announcement of a film called "The Victorious Armies of Germany and Austria and the Armies of Our Enemies, Part I," featuring such scenes as "With an Artillery Aviation Detachment During the Great Spring Offensive, 1917," "Behind the Front in Volhynia," "With the Field Balloonists," etc. After remarking that the movies constitute a powerful medium for influencing the masses in favor of the ruling class, *Die Freiheit* refers to a German magazine called *Die Menschheit*, and continues:

WORK OF CAPITALISTS

"There we learn that the well-known film enterprise 'The German Photo Company, E. B.,' which has the job of 'mak-